

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00809 201737Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-01 PRS-01 /027 W  
-----120414 201738Z /41

O 201635Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3588

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 809

STADIS//////////  
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PN, NS

SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATY

REF STATE 198648

1. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF REFTEL HAD GIVEN SOME IDEA AT LEAST OF WHAT TIME FRAME THE DEPARTMENT IS THINKING OF. AS THIS POST HAS REPORTED OVER PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, SURINAM IS IN MIDST OF AN ELECTION CRISIS, WITH GOVERNING COALITION HAVING SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE AND ALL MINISTERS AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS COMPLETELY OCCUPIED WITH CAMPAIGNING. IF NIACT IMMEDIATE QUERY ON A WEEKEND MEANS DEPT IS TALKING ABOUT COMING TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THAT IS ONE THING, BUT IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER THAT IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AND IT IS EMBARRASSING, IN PASSING THIS QUESTION TO THE MINISTER PRESIDENT, NOT TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM WHICH WE MEAN. IN SURINAM, THERE IS NO ONE BUT THE MINISTER PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO WHOM SUCH A QUESTION CAN BE PUT.

2. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET TO THE MINISTER PRESIDENT IN  
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PERSON OR ON THE TELEPHONE, BUT COMPLETELY WITHOUT SUCCESS. NONE OF HIS OFFICES ( HE IS ALSO MINISTER OF FINANCE AND OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) KNOWS WHERE HE IS. THEY HAVE ALL PROMISED TO HAVE HIM CALL AMBASSADOR WHENEVER THEY CAN REACH HIM, BUT HE IS OBVIOUSLY OFF ON PARTY MATTERS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT WE WILL GET TO HIM OVER THE WEEKEND.

3. ON ASSUMPTION WE WILL NOT GET ANY REACTION BEFORE MONDAY, WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING (BUT NOT BY NIACT, PLEASE) WHATEVER DETAILS CAN BE SUPPLIED ON APPROXIMATE TIMING.

4. SINCE ABOVE DRAFTED, WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH THE MINISTER PRESIDENT BEFORE MONDAY AND THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY, IN THIS ELECTION PERIOD, THAT HE COULD GIVE EVEN A TENTATIVE RESPONSE TO THE IDEA UNLESS HE HAD A PRETTY CLEAR IDEA OF THE TIME FRAME WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY SIGNATURE, CANALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 198648  
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**Subject:** SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATY  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PN, NS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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